

disgraces the party while it controls it and betrays it if its control is resisted. Let me make a proposition to the republicans of Ohio. If you will do your best to drive the liquor interests out of your party, I will do what I can to rid the democratic party of the liquor interests—and this is not a matter of sentiment; it is a matter of necessity. There are great questions to be dealt with, and we can not expect aid from those whose only interest is in the liquor business. And then, too, if one party expels the liquor interest the other party is compelled to do so as a matter of self protection. If we drive the liquor interests out of the democratic party and the republican party receives them, then the republican party will get all of our bad men, and Heaven knows it has enough bad men already. If, on the other hand, the republican party drives

out the liquor interests and we welcome them, we will get the bad men of the republican party—and we haven't room for any more bad men than we now have.

MEET COMBINATION WITH CO-OPERATION

Why not meet combination with co-operation? The liquor interests combine against society; why should not the democrats and republicans co-operate against the liquor interests? Let us for one day lay aside the tariff question, the trust question, the money question, and other national questions upon which we differ, and unite to free the state from the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor, and then we shall be ready for the larger task which is not many years off—the task of ridding the nation of alcohol, its worst enemy, and of the liquor traffic, its greatest evil.

Congressman Dan V. Stephens on Preparedness

Congressman Stephens of Nebraska gave out the following statement as to his position on the preparedness program in which he enlarges upon his recent expression along these lines on the President's message:

"The President has taken the middle ground and on the side of conservatism as between the small navy men and the militarists. He has, no doubt, been compelled by the circumstances to take this advanced position as compared with his former attitude in order to prevent the militarists from forcing their program upon congress. The country has been misled by the paid preparedness propaganda into believing that the nation has no defense worth mentioning against the attacks of a foreign foe. The people have been led to believe that nothing is being done to increase the strength of our army and navy and coast defenses. Nothing could be farther from the truth than this. Since Wilson was elected President the increase cost for the navy alone was in 1912, 20 million dollars; in 1913, 35 million dollars; in 1914, 41 million dollars; and in 1915, 46 million dollars. No such increases have ever been made in the history of the country as in these years of peace. The whole cost of the navy for this year is approximately 150 million dollars, which includes the 46 million for new construction. The President asks for 100 millions more a year to be added to the annual normal increase, and the mad militarists want to add 500 millions at one fell swoop. One can see that the President is conservative, but he, no doubt, is thankful that there will be men in congress more conservative and who will help him to check this career of madness, for greater armaments by refusing to be frightened into the camp of the plunderbund that is to profit by it.

"We have spent the stupendous sum of 1400 million dollars on the navy in the last dozen years and 175 millions on the coast defenses to say nothing of the hundreds of millions on the army. Naval experts have testified before the naval committee that our navy was the second largest in the world. Even the militarists have heretofore claimed we do not need the largest navy. Coast defense experts claim that our coast defenses are the best in the world. I am convinced that these claims are correct, and when we round out our fleet with more submarines and air craft and plenty of ammunition we are doing well enough. We should not startle the poor, broken, bleeding nations of Europe with a mad craze of armament. It can only have one big effect and that will be to force them to respond to their last dollar, building for another gigantic struggle against the new war demon which they will naturally believe is threatening in America, just as the militarists in America hold up the Japanese and Germans as possible foes of ours. They must have something to frighten us with to get their fists into the treasury of the people.

"Another strong reason for delay is the danger of wasting our money on war craft that may be made useless in a few months by new developments in the war zone. For example, three little German submarines costing a half million dollars each and manned by about 25 men each, destroyed about 75 million dollars worth of English battleships manned by nearly ten thousand men. The cost of one dreadnaught will build about 30 submarines requiring about 750 men.

But the dream of every naval officer is to command a great battleship. It is a mighty machine, only a few hundred feet long, but costing as much as all the property in my rich home county is worth, and can be destroyed in a minute with a few hundreds pounds of explosive. It is a great dignity to command a mighty dreadnaught. It produces all sorts of thrills as one sails about the 'Seven Seas,' so our navy men urge the construction of dreadnaughts. In comparison the submarine is a little, dirty, slimey thing that swims under the sea with the fish, and one gets seasick in it. It is no place for gold braid and display. It is a terrible thing to command and a terror to a foe, and, too, there is the cost. It is too cheap. It requires no armor plate, and the profits in its construction are so distributed that there are no profits available to support a Navy league to advocate its usefulness. Who wants to command a submarine, anyway, and why should the plunderbund want effective ships when they cost so little?

A MERCHANT FLEET

"To the battle fleet I would add a great merchant marine, government owned, as an auxiliary to the navy in time of war. It would give the navy an air of usefulness that it does not possess now, and would serve commerce and steady freight rates. In time of war it would be a tremendous asset.

GOVERNMENT SHIP YARDS

"I would take all profit out of our war by building all war craft in government yards, and all arms and ammunition in government arsenals. When we adopt that sort of a policy the Navy league and kindred organizations will fade away, because their cracker line would be severed. Their able public speakers who go about the country uttering slanders against our national defense saying it is 'weaker than dish water,' would be no longer heard in the land. Their profits would be gone.

THE STATE MILITIA

"I would give substantial aid and encouragement to the state militia rather than increase the standing army. This method would give us a large reserve force in a few years that will be sufficient for the needs of a modest nation. It will encourage the citizen soldiery idea suggested by the President in the most effective manner. The continental army plan seems to me wholly unnecessary and out of harmony with existing conditions, and would, in my judgment, prove a failure in the end.

REPEAL OF WAR TAX

"I would repeal the war stamp tax and in lieu thereof raise the graduated tax rate on incomes without lowering the exemptions. Let those with great incomes pay a rate sufficient together with an inheritance tax to pay for the increased cost of defense. Since a few wealthy men owe 90 per cent of the property, let them pay 90 per cent of the cost of defending it. Nothing like this policy can be found to check their ardor for ultra preparedness. A stamp tax is obnoxious and should be repealed at the earliest possible moment. There will be a strong minority in congress fighting the aims of the militarist and they are sure to modify the program, but their strength will be most effective in levying the tax. That will be a party measure and it is hoped that

fifteen or twenty democrats can be found who will force the tax on incomes and repeal stamp taxes, and head off the effort to tax gasoline, automobiles, gas engines and bank checks. I certainly will join such a group.

MUZZLE ADMIRALS AND DIPLOMATS

"Then I would muzzle fighting admirals and cocky diplomats who are thrilled with the sense of great power in their hands. No admiral or diplomat should issue upon representatives of other governments demands that might lead to war, until he has orders to do so from congress. We can be plunged into war any day by hasty acts of our representatives. An impulsive President through his secretary of state can bring the nation to a state of war in spite of the wishes of the people and the fact that war can constitutionally be declared only by congress. When a president issues an ultimatum, right or wrong, congress feels bound to back him up in the demands he makes and war might ensue with the whole people opposed to it. Most wars could have been avoided if cocky diplomats were relegated to the background. Congress could talk any prospect of war to death if given a chance. Publicity will cure most of the evils of the world.

GET RID OF THE PHILIPPINES

"I would get rid of the Philippine islands at the very earliest possible moment consistent with honor and the needs of the natives. They impoverished and ruined Spain, and have cost us to date millions of dollars in one form and another. The militarist insists on keeping them because their defense constitutes his biggest argument for a great navy. The Monroe Doctrine compels us to protect the western hemisphere, but we should stop short of attempting to police the whole world. Before we got these poor, barefooted people and their miserable islands on our hands we were the one great example of the world of an unarmed nation, and could be pointed to with hope by the oppressed people of Europe. While Dewey with his little gunboat fleet sailed into the harbor of Manila we went mad with the thrill of it. A little blood letting with poor old Spain started us on a mad career of armament that for rapid increase has surpassed the world. From a naval expense of about 24 million dollars a year before the Spanish war we have jumped to 150 million dollars and still we are left 'weaker than dish water' according to the war crazed Navy leaguers. Have we lost our sense of proportion, and are we drifting back into barbarism from which we came? Let us hope not. Let us hope that we may calmly face a bleeding world unafraid, and do our best to allay its fears and suspicions and to again establish in the world a sane and wholesome course for nations to pursue. It is not sane or wholesome to show a low standard of thought by suspecting that other nations are seeking our blood. That is what caused the cataclysm in Europe, and that thought written into law in America spells the downfall of our high aims and ideals.

THREE RED LETTERS T-A-X

Militarism in America means a perpetual burden.

A big army and navy adds one thousand million dollars to the load we now carry.

One billion dollars is the war cry of the big lobby at Washington.

The government has already imposed a war tax and still runs short of revenue.

The claim, "We must prepare to fight Germany" is the armor plate and powder trusts in sheep's clothing.

If we prepare for war whence will come the added billion dollars?

There is only one answer. Three letters tell the tale. T-A-X. Who will pay the fiddler? Y-O-U.

We get stronger every day because Europe wears out and gets weaker daily.

If Wall street and the rich want a big army and navy, why not tax the income of the rich to pay the cost?

If such a law is proposed there will instantly be a change of opinion in New York city.

President Wilson and both political parties should keep within due bounds.

We now pay \$1,000 a minute to feed the war lord in this country.—Sentinel (Ohio).

We frankly trust that nobody will suspect that Colonel Roosevelt's principal motive in deciding to go upon that trip to the West Indies was to avoid being compelled to go on record as to his party affiliation at the progressive banquet in Chicago.